

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P 141550Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5519
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19336

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, CH, JA, PEPR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS REACTION TO PFT

1. TWO ARTICLES ON PFT SIGNING HAVE APPEARED IN
CENTRAL SOVIET PRESS SO FAR: DEMCHENKO COMMENTARY
IN AUGUST 13 PRAVDA; AUGUST 13 TASS ARTICLE DATED
TOKYO IN AUGUST 14 PRAVDA. BOTH WERE ALSO CARRIED
ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE TASS WIRE.

2. LEVEL AND SUBSTANCE OF THESE TWO ARTICLES MAY
REPRESENT SOVIET "HOLDING PATTERN" PENDING MORE
AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET COMMENT, OR - IF MOSCOW SHOULD
SO DECIDE - ANTI-JAPANESE MEASURES. BOTH ARTICLES
SKIRT QUESTION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE SOVIET MOVES IN
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RESPONSE TO PFT SIGNING EXCEPT FOR DEMCHENKO'S
VAGUE STATEMENT THAT "PEACEFUL NATIONS . . . WILL
NOT ALLOW THE PEKING HEGEMONISTS TO RECARVE THE
MAP" OF ASIA AND "WIDEN THE SPHERE" OF PEKING'S
INFLUENCE "WITH THE AID OF ANY OF ITS ALLIES."

3. FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF DEMCHENKO ARTICLE STRIKE

US AS NOTEWORTHY:

-- ANTICIPATED SCOLDING OF JAPANESE IS INTERMIXED WITH SUGGESTION OF SOVIET "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE. PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH'S STATEMENT THAT "THE FUTURE WILL SHOW WHETHER JAPAN WILL BE ABLE TO PURSUE AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY . ." IS CLEAREST INDICATION OF THIS POSITION;

-- JAPANESE ARE PORTRAYED AS CAPITULATING TO PEKING'S TERMS AND IGNORING PREVIOUS JAPANESE ASSURANCES TO "NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES" TO MAINTAIN AN "INDEPENDENT STAND." DEMCHENKO HOLDS THAT TOKYO FAILED TO "WEAKEN" PEKING'S "VERSION" OF THE TREATY THROUGH INSERTION OF THIRD COUNTRY CLAUSE DESPITE JAPANESE ASSERTIONS TO THE CONTRARY;

-- AS WITH SOVIET PUBLIC COMMENT SINCE PFT TALKS RESUMED JULY 21, OVERWHELMING PORTION OF BLAME FOR TREATY IS DUMPED ON CHINESE SHOULDERS;

-- CONCLUDING TWO SENTENCES OF ARTICLE APPEAR TO SIGNAL OUT SOUTHEAST ASIA AS AN AREA IN WHICH THE PRC WILL USE PFT TO INVOLVE TOKYO IN PEKING'S "AGGRESSIVE ASPIRATIONS." THIS COULD INDICATE A SOVIET CONCERN THAT PEKING MAY ATTEMPT TO DRAW SEA COUNTRIES INTO AGREEMENTS CONTAINING ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE AND COULD EXPLAIN SOVIET MFA OFFICER ARKHAROV'S STATEMENT (MOSCOW 19145) THAT PFT WITH ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE WOULD BE A "DANGEROUS PRECE-
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DENT" FOR "INDIVIDUAL" COUNTRIES AND "GROUPS" OF COUNTRIES. TOON

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Message Attributes

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